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## PRESS RELEASE

### What's NEW on the Watershed Information Model?

The exciting and interactive Watershed Information Model, or WIM, (<http://wim.shastacollege.edu>) has been updated! This past month, WIM developers completed their third update since the Website launched in August, 2003. WIM is a 24-hour resource available to anybody interested in local watershed activities on the World Wide Web. Watersheds are all around us and under our feet everywhere we go, so come explore the watersheds around you.

WIM offers unlimited information for visitors seeking watershed related assessments, reports, photos and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data files in an easily searchable Data Catalog. Other key features include extensive interactive maps, detailed watershed pages for 19 area watersheds, a 'matrix' (table) of completed and ongoing projects in the area, a monthly newsletter, a glossary of related terms, links to other interesting GIS and watershed based Websites, and the Hydrologic Cycle diagram, all available with the click of a mouse. Visitors can also find student-collected creek observation data from the Whiskeytown Environmental School which will someday be used to observe trends and habitat changes over time. The interactive maps feature seamless digital photos in the Base Data, helpful in identifying locations from a bird's eye point of view. There is much to explore on the WIM site, made possible by a grant from the CALFED Bay-Delta Authority Watershed Program and California Department of Water Resources.

The Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (RCD) invites you to come see what's new on WIM this fall. Together with our developer, VESTRA Resources, Inc. and key partners including Shasta College, the RCD has added pages and features to expand WIM's usefulness and appeal to all Web visitors. The Data Catalog now contains over 820 documents, photos, GIS datasets and GIS Map Services for all watersheds in the WIM study area. Another new feature includes recently compiled data for the upper areas of the Pit River Watershed. View a new watershed information page, 19 photos, documents, 50+ GIS datasets and an interactive map window dedicated to the watershed. Additionally, the exciting Interactive Maps now feature the Shasta-Trinity National Forest Visitors Map available in the background under "Base Data" and the recently digitized Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Shasta County soil survey dataset.

The new updates to WIM are available to view on-line now. Not sure which watershed you live in? Not a problem as maps are plentiful on the Website. Use the digital ortho-photos, topographic maps or visitor maps in the background under Base Data to help orient location. Not sure which watershed your school is located in? View the Interactive Maps and search the "Find a Place" feature to locate everything from "Mistletoe" to "Prairie" to "Dunsmuir". The possibilities on WIM are endless, so why not explore the Watershed Information Model yourself?

Please contact the Western Shasta RCD for more information at (530) 365-7332 and visit WIM: <http://wim.shastacollege.edu>.